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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

LEIVA, FRANK M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/09/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/712,550	Applicant(s) NGUYEN ET AL.	
	Examiner FRANK M. LEIVA	Art Unit 3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 December 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,23-28,42,44 and 48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,23-28,42,44 and 48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, [claims 1-5, 23-28, and 42-46] in the reply filed on 24 April 2007 is acknowledged.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed 18 December 2007, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-5, 23-28, 42, and 44 under 35 U.S.C §102(e) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Schlottmann.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 42 is objected to because of the following informalities: the claims are dependent on non-elected claims withdrawn from consideration, for the purpose of examination the examiner will refer to them as dependent on claim 1. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to

a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-5, 23-28, 42, 44 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schlottmann (US 2003/0064811 A1).

6. Regarding claim 1; Schlottmann discloses a gaming system comprising:
a server computer; a network computer operatively coupled to said server computer, said network computer comprising a single-write data storage device and an operational event controller operatively coupled to said single-write data storage device, said operational event controller comprising a processor and a memory operatively coupled to said processor, (¶ [0005 and 0015]).

said operational event controller being programmed to retrieve operational event data, said operational event controller being programmed to permanently store said operational event data on said data storage device, (¶ [0019-0020]), and

said operational event controller being programmed to communicate said operational event data to said server computer upon a request from said server computer for said operational event data, a plurality of gaming apparatuses operatively coupled to said network computer, (¶ [0022]).

each gaming apparatus comprising: a display unit, a ticket printer capable of generating ticket vouchers, a value input device, and a controller operatively coupled to said display unit, said ticket printer and said value input device, said controller comprising a processor and a memory operatively coupled to said processor, said controller being programmed to cause said display unit to generate a game display relating to a game, said controller being programmed to determine a value payout associated with an outcome of said game, (¶ [0025]), and

said controller being programmed to communicate said operational event data to said operational event controller, said operational event data comprising one or more of the following data types: accounting data, cashless data, security data, player tracking data and maintenance data, (¶ [0032]).

7. **Regarding claim 2;** Schlottmann discloses further comprising a plurality of server computers, wherein said operational event controller is programmed to communicate said operational event data to a particular server computer based on said data type, (¶ [0036]).

8. **Regarding claim 3;** Schlottmann discloses further comprising a plurality of said network computers operatively coupled to said server computer and each disposed in a different geographic location, wherein: said operational event controller is programmed to communicate said operational event data to an operational event controller of at least one of said plurality of network computers, and said operational event controller is programmed receive operational event data from an operational event controller of at least one of said plurality of network computers, (¶ [0035-0036]).

9. **Regarding claim 4;** Schlottmann discloses all the limitations recited in claim 1 from which claim 4 depend on, although Schlottmann is silent about the system being applied to government sponsored gaming devices, it is well known in the art to apply all the teachings of gaming devices whether they are private or State funded gaming establishment. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement the teachings of Jordan in any Government sponsored establishment to gain the same advantages as does any regular casino in the country.

10. **Regarding claim 5;** Schlottmann discloses wherein said gaming system comprises a casino gaming system, (¶ [0032]).

11. **Regarding claim 23;** Schlottmann discloses further comprising a plurality of gaming apparatuses said gaming apparatuses being interconnected to form a network of gaming apparatuses, (¶ [0015]) includes a network which implicitly includes a plurality of gaming devices.

12. **Regarding claim 24;** Schlottmann discloses wherein said controller is programmed to retrieve operational event data from each of said gaming apparatuses and communicate said received operational event data to said data storage device, (¶ [0024]).

13. **Regarding claim 25;** Schlottmann discloses wherein each controller is programmed to communicate said operational event data to a data storage device of at least one of said plurality of gaming apparatuses, (Fig. 4 and description).

14. **Regarding claim 26;** Schlottmann discloses further comprising a network computer operatively coupled to each of said gaming apparatuses, said network computer comprising said data storage device, an operational event controller operatively coupled to said data storage device, said operational event controller comprising a processor and a memory operatively coupled to said processor, said operational event controller being programmed to retrieve said operational event data from a controller of each of said gaming apparatuses, and said operational event controller being programmed to communicate said operational event data to said single-write data storage device, (fig. 2-3 and ¶ [0015]).

15. **Regarding claims 27 and 42;** Schlottmann discloses further comprising a plurality of server computers operatively coupled to said plurality of gaming apparatuses, wherein: said controller is programmed to communicate said operational event data to said data storage device, said operational event data comprising one or more of the following data types: accounting data, cashless data, security data, player tracking data and maintenance data, said controller is programmed to communicate said operational event data to a particular server computer based on said data type, (¶ [0035]), wherein there are several networks each having its own server to control each network, and well-known to have a server for each separate department in a casino.

16. **Regarding claim 28;** Schlottmann discloses wherein said gaming apparatuses are interconnected via the Internet, (¶ [0035]) wherein the internet is implied a candidate for network connection.

17. **Regarding claim 44;** Schlottmann discloses wherein each controller is programmed to communicate said operational event data to a single-write data storage device of at least one of said plurality of gaming apparatuses, (fig. 2-3).

18. **Regarding claim 48;** Schlottmann while discloses the use of the invention to monitor a ticket printer, does not disclose using it as a printer method as previously recited Jordan; wherein said controller is configured or designed to cause said ticket printer to issue a ticket voucher comprising at least a portion of said operational event data, the examiner points out that it is well-known in the art to use the slot machines own printer to print out audit and error reports such as the old SED games.

19. **Examiner's Note:** Examiner has cited paragraphs and figures in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FRANK M. LEIVA whose telephone number is (571)272-2460. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 9:30am - 5:pm.

Art Unit: 3714

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert E. Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Robert E Pezzuto/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3714

FML 07/03/2008